

Remarks

The Office Action dated May 25, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks are made in consequence thereof.

Claims 5-19 and 24-28 are pending in this application. Claims 1-25 are subject to restriction/election requirement. Claims 1-4 and 20-23 have been cancelled. Claims 26-28 were newly added.

The assertion on page 2 of the Office Action that the reply filed by Applicants on 4/19/05 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action dated 3/22/05 is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states that "Applicant elected with traverse species A, shown in Fig.2, which does not have an annular channel between the drywell sidewall and the base grid shield wall, contrary to the recitations of the "inlet flow channel" and "outlet flow channel" in claims such as independent claims 9 and 17". Applicants disagree with this assertion.

Independent Claim 9 recites:

An assembly comprising:

a containment vessel comprising a suppression pool, a drywell and a floor, said drywell comprising a sidewall extending from said floor, said sidewall separating said suppression pool from said drywell;
a reactor pressure vessel installed inside said containment vessel;
a base grid disposed below said pressure vessel and spaced vertically above said floor of said containment vessel to define a sump therebetween;
an annular base grid shield wall extending vertically upward from said base grid, **said base grid shield wall having a configuration comprising at least one of:**

(a) said base grid shield wall spaced inwardly from said drywell sidewall to define an annular channel therebetween; and

(b) said base grid shield wall positioned adjacent said drywell sidewall;

at least one flow baffle in said sump;

an inlet flow channel extending through at least one of said annular channel providing flow communication between said drywell and said sump, and an inlet flow passage through said drywell sidewall providing flow communication between said sump and said suppression pool; and

an outlet flow channel extending through at least one of said annular channel providing flow communication between said sump and said drywell, **and an outlet flow passage through said drywell sidewall** providing flow communication between said sump and said suppression pool. (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of independent Claim 9 read on the species A shown in Figure 2. There is no requirement in Claim 9 that the inlet flow channel or the outlet flow channel has to extend through an annular channel between the drywall sidewall and the base grid shield wall as suggested by the Office Action. Particularly, Claim 9 recites "an inlet flow channel extending through at least one of . . . and an inlet flow passage through said drywell sidewall . . . an outlet flow channel extending through at least one . . . and an outlet flow passage through said drywell sidewall".

Independent Claim 17 recites:

A nuclear reactor comprising:

a primary containment comprising a floor;

a reactor pressure vessel located in said primary containment;

a drywell located in said primary containment, said drywell comprising a sidewall;

a suppression pool located in said primary containment, said suppression pool separated from said drywell by said drywell sidewall; and

a core catcher cooling system located in said primary containment and disposed below said reactor pressure vessel, said core catcher cooling system comprising:

a base grid having a top plate and a bottom plate, said base grid spaced vertically above said floor of said containment vessel to define a sump therebetween;

an annular base grid shield wall extending vertically upward from said base grid, **said base grid shield wall having a configuration comprising at least one of:**

(a) said base grid shield wall spaced inwardly from said drywell sidewall to define an annular channel therebetween; and

(b) said base grid shield wall positioned adjacent said drywell sidewall;

at least one flow baffle in said sump;

an inlet passage providing flow communication between said sump and at least one of said drywell and said suppression pool, **said inlet flow**

channel extending through at least one of said annular channel and said drywell sidewall; and

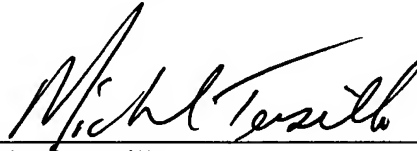
an outlet passage providing flow communication between said sump and at least one of said drywell and said suppression pool, **said outlet passage extending through at least one of said annular channel and said drywell sidewall**, said inlet and outlet passages configured to circulate water between said sump and at least one of said drywell and said suppression pool by convection. (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of independent Claim 17 read on the species A shown in Figure 2. There is no requirement in Claim 17 that the inlet flow channel or the outlet flow channel has to extend through an annular channel between the drywall sidewall and the base grid shield wall as suggested by the Office Action. Particularly, Claim 17 recites "said inlet flow channel extending through at least one of . . . and said drywell sidewall . . . said outlet passage extending through at least one of . . . and said drywell sidewall".

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the reply filed on 4/19/05 is fully responsive to the prior Office Action dated 3/22/05.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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